



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
PRESS SERVICE



Release - Immediate.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 18, 1933.

REPORT PROGRESS IN STUDIES
OF DISEASES IN GAME BIRDS

Progress in studies of upland-game-bird diseases was reported at the American Veterinary Medical Association annual meeting held in Chicago from August 14 to 18, by Dr. J. E. Shillinger of the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Losses in some species of game birds in recent years have more than offset reproduction, said Dr. Shillinger, and through disease studies the Biological Survey is aiding in the propagation of quail, pheasants, grouse, and other birds on game farms.

Presenting a paper of which Dr. L. C. Morley, also of the Biological Survey, is joint author, Dr. Shillinger discussed the variety of test birds used in bureau experiments in transmitting ulcerative enteritis in quail, grouse, and other game birds. This disease, he reported, often wipes out a large part of the stock on game-bird farms, young birds sometimes dying within 48 hours after contact with a virulent strain of the infectious agent. The causative organism, he said, has not yet been grown in the laboratory in pure cultures, but postmortems indicate that it is a toxin producer as well as a cause of ulcer formation in the digestive tract.

The paper described a back-yard laboratory maintained by Dr. Morley at his home in Richmond, Va. Here Dr. Morley keeps watch of nesting birds, eggs during incubation, young birds in an electric brooder, and their growth to maturity in a developing pen.

Several States and institutions have offered to cooperate in these studies, said Dr. Shillinger, and some have supplied funds and experimental equipment.

-----T-----

370-34